

SPY

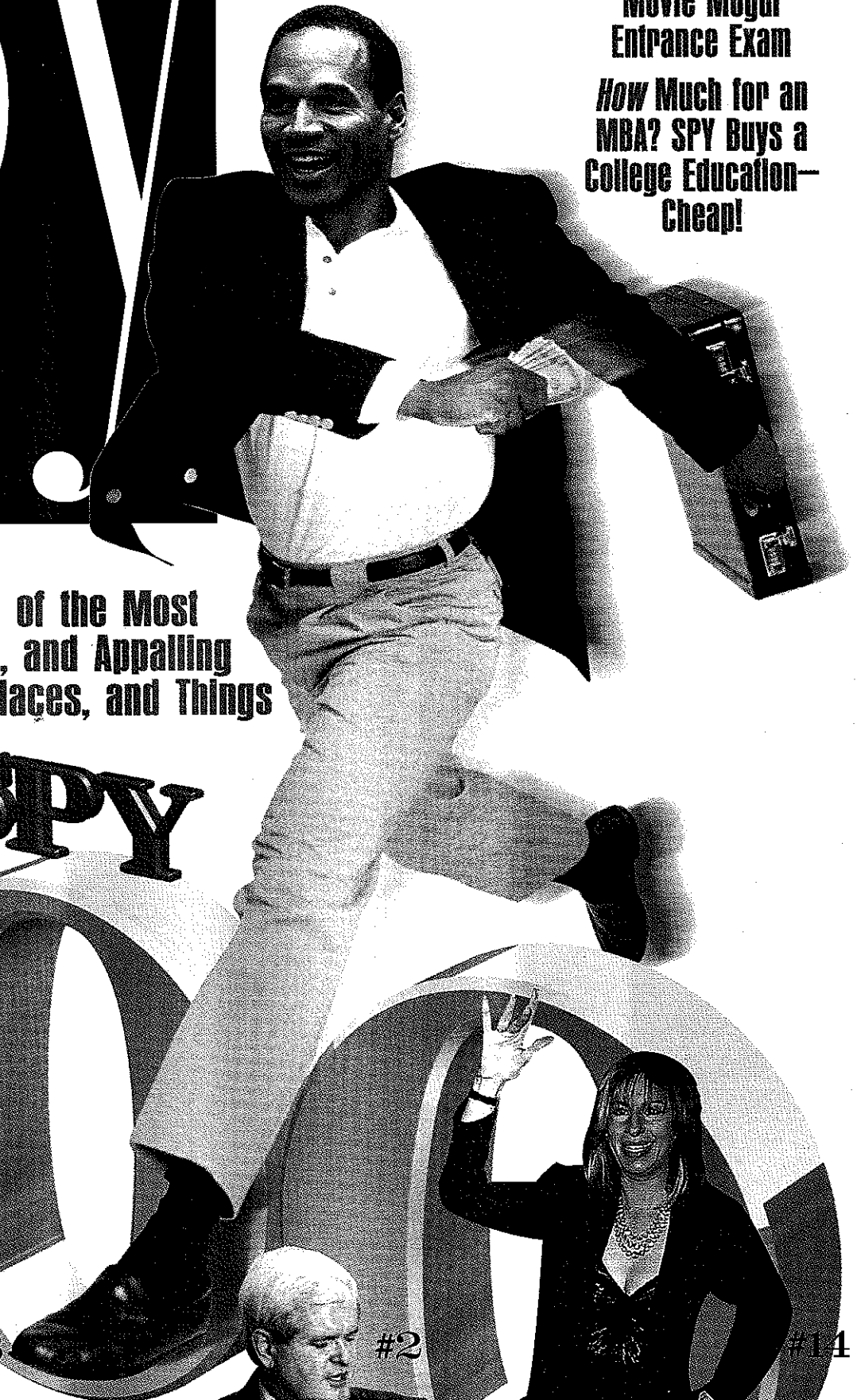
**Movie Mogul
Entrance Exam**
*How Much for an
MBA? SPY Buys a
College Education—
Cheap!*

February 1995

**Our Annual Census of the Most
Annoying, Alarming, and Appalling
People, Places, and Things**

The SPY

100



#88



#2



#14

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DISPLAY UNTIL FEB. 20,

65

total: 127.12

The Great Caruso

inherent loathsomeness (1-10) 6
misdeeds (1-10) After just one season at *NYPD Blue*, the pasty-skinned actor quit after the show's producers failed to more than double his per-episode salary. * After delivering his final lines of dialogue, Caruso "walked out of the door, off the set, and off the lot," says his ex-costar, Dennis Franz. "It made a lot of people feel foolish....But that's David." * Said one former associate of Caruso's salary demands, "Huge egotism such as his could be accepted only in the entertainment industry. If he had a real job, he'd have his ass kicked every five minutes." 9
mitigating factors (1-10) Other stars who left hit shows to make it big: Shelley Long, Harry Hamlin, McLean Stevenson, Daniel Travanti. 5
cultural saturation (1-10) *NYPD Blue* received a record 26 Emmy nominations. 4
bonus points (1-10) Caruso's manager on his client's public desire to become a movie star: "We want to carry \$60 million feature films. I see no reason why he can't be Dustin Hoffman." * Caruso's diverse screen resume includes *First Blood*, in which he played a cop; *King of New York*, in which he played a cop; and *Mad Dog and Glory*, in which he played a cop. 6

66

total: 126.26

Cuddling up to Terrorists

inherent loathsomeness (1-10) 6
misdeeds (1-10) President Clinton broke with a 25-year-old U.S. policy by granting a visa to IRA terrorist Gerry Adams, who was hailed by many upon his visit to the U.S. as an "Irish Nelson Mandela." Among his many noble deeds: commanded the IRA's second battalion for one year, during which time its members killed 3 policemen, 19 soldiers, and 27 civilians; boasted of planting 19 bombs in Belfast, killing 9 and wounding and maiming 130; personally responsible for the fire-bombing of the LaMon restaurant, in which 12 people were burned to death. According to Adams, he is ready to "go that extra mile for peace." 10
mitigating factors (1-10) While Adams's image is allowed to be broadcast in England, his voice isn't, so all of his TV appearances have to be dubbed. 2
cultural saturation (1-10) 7
bonus points (1-10) Adams's life was once saved by a Protestant doctor. 5

67

total: 124.52

Cuba

inherent loathsomeness (1-10) 6
misdeeds (1-10) Using his own people's misery as a diplomatic weapon, Fidel Castro allowed masses of



Cubans to flee their impoverished, chaotic country in makeshift rafts, in the hopes that the inconvenience to the U.S. would trigger talks with President Clinton regarding the 32-year embargo. * The country's new motto among the people is: "*Se acaba la ideologia, solo queda la policia*" ("The ideology is finished, only the police remain"). * When one journalist asked a young boy what he'd like to be when he grows up, the boy replied, "I want to be a foreigner." 7
mitigating factors (1-10) In a grand display of Orwellian hospitality, Janet Reno sidestepped a 28-year-old law granting permanent residency to Cubans reaching U.S. shores by mandating that all incoming rafts would be considered Haitian, and would therefore be routed to the American naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. 5
cultural saturation (1-10) 5
bonus points (1-10) Castro stated that proper assessment of his achievements will take 1,000 years. 6

68

total: 124.41

103rd Congress

inherent loathsomeness (1-10) 7
misdeeds (1-10) Killed: A bill that would have prohibited lobbyists from providing gifts, meals, entertainment, and travel to members of Congress and their staffs. * An overhaul of the Superfund law that would have speeded cleanup of toxic-waste dumps. * Balanced budget amendment. * A bill that would have revised standards for the purity of drinking water. 8
mitigating factors (1-10) Passed: Bill that makes it a crime to interfere "by force, threat of force, or by physical obstruction" with passage to abortion clinics. * Assault-weapons ban. * California desert pro-

GET A LIFE

69

total: 122.76

Coffee Bars

inherent loathsomeness (1-10) 6
misdeeds (1-10) Trend originated in Portland and Seattle and spread east. * Howard Schultz, head of Starbucks, has stated that he wants to turn America into "Latteland." * In an effort to double current production levels, select coffee bars in New York and San Francisco have installed coin-operated computers with full-time Internet and SH-NET links, so patrons can sip and chat with other late drinkers in what is seriously being billed as the "virtual cafe." 6
mitigating factors (1-10) Because they are so desperate for space, coffee shops typically pay 10 to 15 percent above market value for real estate in Manhattan. 6
cultural saturation (1-10) In 1989 there were 200 coffee bars in the U.S. In 1993 there were 1,000. By 1999 there are expected to be well over 10,000. * Inspired McDonalds to freshly ground and brewed coffee, rather than gourmet blend. 6
bonus points (1-10) Said one New York real-estate broker on coffee shops: "The coffee bar industry is the only thing that's gone mainstream in the late seventies." 6

tection * Reinstatement of the independent counsel law, which allows prosecutors from outside government to be appointed to investigate governmental corruption. 5
cultural saturation (1-10) 6
bonus points (1-10) Resulted in the 104th Congress, which will feature Newt Gingrich as Speaker of the House, Al D'Amato as chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, and Jesse Helms as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. 4

70

total: 119.47

Kissing Up to the Dead

inherent loathsomeness (1-10) 7
misdeeds (1-10) Bill Clinton on shifty-eyed, red-baiting crook Richard Nixon: "May the day of judging President Nixon on anything less than his entire life and career come to a close." The *Chicago Tribune* on wordless professional wife Jackie O.: "The term 'queen' has been much bandied about in the flood of commentary that has followed her death Thursday night, but it's apt." * Dan Mathews, director of International Campaigns for PETA on heroin-cocaine-marijuana-and-Valium-laden River Phoenix: "River had a great will to live. The hardest drink I ever saw him drink was carrot juice." 10
mitigating factors (1-10) Mayor Rudy Giuliani on Richard Nixon: "Richard Nixon's life offers a remarkable example of how a person through his own failures, problems, and difficulties reached the lowest point a person could reach." * Historian William Manchester on Jackie O.: "I once asked Jack to describe his wife in a single word, and he did—fey. I thought it was perfect." * A film-industry source on Phoenix: "He may have been a vegetarian, but that doesn't mean he didn't use drugs. I saw him in May or June at the USA Film Festival in Dallas. You